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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

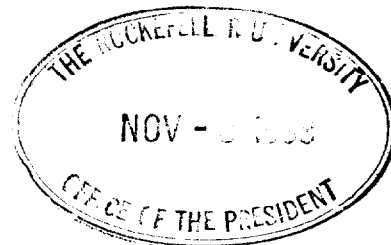
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94143

Box 0536

30 October 1988

Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021-6399



Dear Dr. Lederberg:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your most interesting account on the origins of the clonal selection theory of antibody formation, which corrects the error in my book. I am very glad that you provided this information. Having encountered so many historical mistakes in several generations of secondary sources during my research, I do not wish to perpetuate any from my own narrative, even if, as in this case, the author of the primary source was in error. Alas, the damage has been done. However, please be assured that if and when my publisher requests a revised or second edition, the time of your visit to Melbourne and the pronoun used in describing your work with Nossal will be corrected. Indeed, I will cite your paper in Trans NY Acad Sci.

I am pleased that you are enjoying my somewhat unorthodox historical review of immunology. Although I am continuing my research in cutaneous microbial ecology (maintaining a link with TAGO as a marketing consultant), it is the ever widening and penetrating field of immunology that excites me. In your section, "Retrospection: Thirty Years Later," you rhetorically ask what sane person would have postulated today's [immune cell] menagerie in 1957? Quite so. Who would have dared then to link the immune, endocrine, and neurological systems, let alone conscious mind? And what would Metchnikoff say about his versatile macrophage?

Once more, thank you for your preprint and correction.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Jan Bibel

Debra Jan Bibel, Ph.D.
Research Associate, Kaiser Foundation

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